# COMMANDERS DIGEST

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## Lowest Defense Budget Since 1950

# DoD Requests $71.8 Billion for Fiscal Year 1971

The Department of Defense has proposed a budget of $71.8 billion in outlays to maintain the overall preparedness of the Defense establishment during Fiscal Year 1971.

It adds to the significant reduction initiated by Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird in Fiscal Year 1970 and represents the lowest percentage (seven per cent) of the Gross National Product since 1951.

Basically, the Fiscal Year 1971 Defense budget is what officials call a "fiscally constrained budget" rather than a "requirements based budget," as practiced by past administrations.

In other words, what the services believe their operating requirements are, must in the final analysis be compatable with a total figure coming down from the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The new budget system is evident to some extent in the Fiscal Year 1971 budget. The Fiscal Year 1972 budget cycle, and each succeeding year, will totally reflect the innovations instituted by Secretary Laird.

Beginning with the total national outlays of $200.8 billion, the Defense budget is the lowest percentage of the total Federal budget since 1950—or 34.6 per cent.

In comparison with Fiscal Year 1969, the Fiscal Year 1971 budget outlays represent a reduction of $6.9 billion. The real


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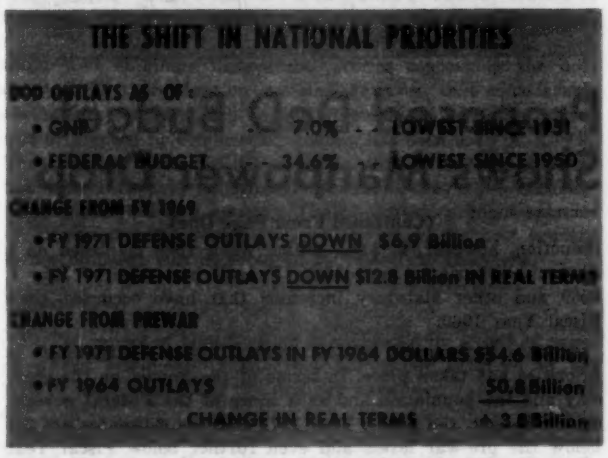
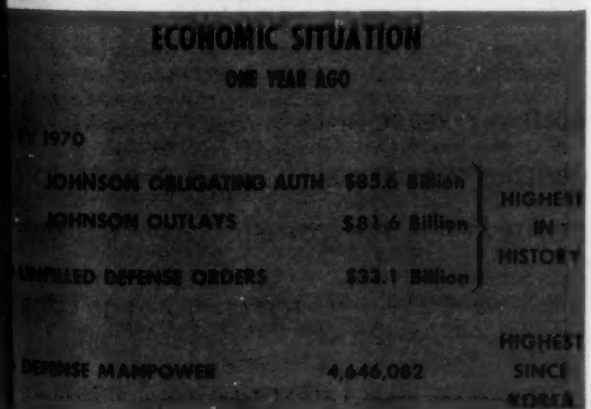

THE SHIFT IN NATIONAL PRIORITIES
DOD OUTLAYS AS OF:
• GNP 7.0% LOWEST SINCE 1951
• FEDERAL BUDGET 34.6% LOWEST SINCE 1950
CHANGE FROM FY 1969
• FY 1971 DEFENSE OUTLAYS DOWN $6.9 Billion
• FY 1971 DEFENSE OUTLAYS DOWN $12.8 Billion IN REAL TERMS
CHANGE FROM PREWAR
• FY 1971 DEFENSE OUTLAYS IN FY 1964 DOLLARS $54.6 Billion
• FY 1964 OUTLAYS $50.8 Billion
CHANGE IN REAL TERMS + 3.8 Billion




# IG Review Refutes Allegations Of News Censorship In Vietnam

The U. S. Command has completed a review of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, (MACV) Inspector General's report of investigation into allegations made by Army Specialist Fifth Class Robert E. Lawrence concerning operations at the American Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN) in Saigon. Following is a summary of the findings of the investigation:

1. The investigation concluded that the station was operating within the policies established by the Department of Defense for the American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS), and that there was no censorship at AFVN.

2. In analyzing the allegations of censorship, the investigation required the complainant to indicate specific instances of censorship which he or others had observed. There was a total of 23 such instances cited for a six-month period. Of these, a number of items were actually broadcast. In the case of those which were not broadcast, there were valid reasons for not using them. There was no pattern which would indicate a policy of not using certain types of stories. In no case did the news


(Continued on Page Three)

## DOD FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(In Billions of Dollars)

| | FY 1964 | FY 1969 | FY 1970 a/ JOHNSON | FY 1970 a/ CURRENT | FY 1971 | PERCENT CHANGE FROM JOHNSON 1970 BUDGET |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DIRECT PROGRAM (TOA) | 50.6 | 79.4 | 85.6 | 77.0 | 72.9 | -14.8% |
| BUDGET AUTHORITY (NOA) | 50.9 | 76.5 | 83.2 | 73.9 | 71.3 | -14.3% |
| OUTLAYS | 50.8 | 78.7 | 81.6 | 77.0 | 71.8 | -12.0% |

a/ Includes July 1, 1969, Pay Raise

# Proposed DoD Budget Shows Manpower Drop

(Continued From Page One)

reduction, however, is $10.4 billion when 1969 is placed on a comparable basis to include the Federal pay raise of July 1, 1969 and other statutory increases that have occurred since Fiscal Year 1969.

Defense Department officials point out that a large shift in priorities has taken place. In terms of the impact on the economy and the population and as a share of the Federal government's budget, the Fiscal Year 1971 Defense estimates are far below the pre-war levels and even further below Fiscal Year 1969.

For example, the Fiscal Year 1971 budget reflects significant decreases in all appropriation titles in Total Obligational Authority (TOA) except military retired pay and military construction. Of the $4.2 billion TOA reduction, $3.4 billion is operations (military personnel and operations maintenance), $1.7 billion is in procurement. These decreases are offset by the retired pay increase—$300 million; military construction and family housing—$400 million; and a new appropriation, "Combat Readiness, South Vietnamese Forces"—$300 million.

Allocations proposed for military personnel in the Fiscal Year 1971 budget total $20.911 billion in outlays, of which $19.843 billion would go to the active forces and $1.068 billion to the Reserve forces.

Defense procurement outlays (for aircraft, missiles, ships, etc.) proposed for Fiscal Year 1971 comes to $18.799 billion, while the military functions (R&DTE, family housing, military construction, combat readiness, RVN forces, etc.) accounts for $9.339 billion. Credits and financing adjustments amount to $701 million in trust funds and offsetting receipts.

Military assistance with credits of $64 million for trust funds, offsetting receipts, etc., totals $600 million.

By component, the Army is proposing expenditures of $21.5 billion in outlays; the Navy $20.8 billion; the Air Force $23 billion; Defense agencies-OSD $1.6 billion; a Defense-wide allocation of $4 billion and Civil Defense $70 million.

Personnel levels are being sharply reduced both in the military and civilian personnel categories.

Military personnel are programmed to drop 299,000 in Fiscal Year 1970 and an additional 252,000 in Fiscal Year 1971 for a total of 551,000 in two years.

Civilian personnel will drop 72,000 in Fiscal Year 1970 and 58,000 more in Fiscal Year 1971, for a total of 130,000 in two years.

The reductions in Defense programs are also estimated to cause a dislocation during Fiscal Year 1970-1971 of more than 600,000 contractor personnel.

Total Defense related personnel reductions will be over 1.3 million—about 1.6 per cent of the labor force.

In Fiscal Year 1964, Defense military personnel represented 18.2 per cent of the male population aged 19 to 30. This percentage rose to a high of 19.2 per cent in Fiscal Year 1969 but will drop to 15 per cent in Fiscal Year 1971, or over three per cent less than the Fiscal Year 1964 level.

The number of young men entering the military service increased by 55 per cent from Fiscal Year 1964 to Fiscal Year 1969. It is decreasing by over 25 per cent from Fiscal Year 1969 to Fiscal Year 1971.

As a fraction of the labor force, Defense officials said, DoD Fiscal Year 1971 civilian employment is down four per cent below pre-war Fiscal Year 1964 and is down 12 per cent from Fiscal Year 1969.

Estimated Fiscal Year 1971 totals in military personnel calls for 2,908,127, down from the estimated Fiscal Year 1970 total of 3,160,647.

Estimated Fiscal Year 1971 totals in civilian personnel calls for a force of 1,145,128, down from the estimated Fiscal Year 1970 total of 1,202,952.

## MANPOWER REDUCTIONS

(6/30/69 - 6/30/71)

| | |
|---|---|
| MILITARY PERSONNEL | 551,296 |
| CIVILIAN PERSONNEL | 130,412 |
| CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL | 640,000 |
| TOTAL | 1,321,708 |

• Reductions equal 1.6% of labor force

# IG Review Refutes Allegations of News Censorship In Vietnam

(Continued From Page One)

items not used favor or hurt any group nor did failure to use them have any adverse impact on the military audience.

3. The 23 cases cited came from 180,000 items screened and some 12,000 news items which were broadcast over AFVN during the same six-month period; a total of some 700 hours of news broadcasting. The investigation concluded that this small percentage of contested news items did not constitute a pattern of censorship.

4. The material used represented varied points of view from among commercial commentators on news as well as public figures in the news. In numerous instances, AFVN has carried news and commentary which have been unfavorable to the U. S. Government and to the U. S. Armed Forces. In fact, the extent to which unfavorable news items have been used was such that the allegation that news had been kept off the air because it was unfavorable was considered by the investigators to be completely unfounded and unsupported. The investigation further revealed that in the case of some of the specific stories which AFVN broadcasters said had been banned from use on AFVN, it was found that the stories were in fact used. In the few cases in which the stories were not used, it was not because the story was unfavorable. The decisions were purely editorial selections by AFVN personnel on duty who were assigned the responsibility for making such selections.

5. As information sources of AFVN newscasts, the network receives wire service news reports, the AFRTS News Service, and taped and filmed reports from both AFRTS and commercial networks. Because the amount of material received far exceeds that which can be aired, there is a selection of items for use on the newscasts. This process of selection is quite similar to the editorial decision-making process found in commercial radio and television news operations. Specialist Lawrence expressed the view that he and other newscasters individually should have full authority to make such editorial choices. However, they felt that if their superiors made such choices, this was censorship. Such a position is inimical to the operation of a radio or television station.

6. Defense policies require that items emanating from official sources, as opposed to those emanating from commercial sources, conform with policies of the U. S. Government. Therefore, any items which are contrary to such policy must, when carried, be clearly attributed to other than official sources and such views cannot be confirmed in any manner by official sources. Furthermore, since the broadcasters on AFVN are uniformed military personnel, they are considered to be official sources when using unattributed material. Comments which are unattributed are editorial comments and editorial comments originated by the stations are specifically prohibited by Department of Defense regulations. Applications of such policies was a responsibility of AFVN. The supervisory personnel at the station were properly required to insure compliance with these policies. Specialist Lawrence in his expressed position objected to the execution of this responsibility.

7. The mission of the network is to inform U. S. military personnel. This mission also includes the responsibility of not mis-informing. The policies to which some of the broadcasters objected were found by the investigators to be in compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Department of Defense and the nature of the AFVN operation when reporting on military operations. Moreover, AFVN has the inherent responsibility in the combat zone not to release or broadcast information which would be of value to the enemy.

8. Since AFVN is operating on frequencies authorized by the Republic of Vietnam, there are obligations to the sensitivities of the host country. Material which would offend the host country cannot be used. This does not, however, prohibit the use of material which is unfavorable to the host country. The application of these criteria requires judgment which in some cases could well eliminate unfavorable stories concerning the host country. The investigation revealed, however, that considerable commentary unfavorable to the Republic of Vietnam, which was originated by commercial sources, has been used on AFVN. The extent of such use led to the conclusion that material has not been arbitrarily eliminated because it may have been unfavorable to the host country. The concept of prudent exercise of judgment when releasing news stories so the host country is not offended was objected to by Specialist Lawrence.

**Summary.**

9. The report of investigation is supported by scores of pages of sworn testimony taken from individuals involved in the AFVN operation. All of the findings have been documented and the complete report, including the sworn testimony, has been forwarded to the Department of Defense. In view of the established validity of the policies under which the network is directed to operate and the determination that these policies have not been violated in the operation of AFVN, those personnel who have indicated they cannot comply with those policies have been transferred from AFVN to other assignments.

10. It is specifically noted that Specialist Lawrence was informed on December 29, 1969 that charges under Article 15 were being filed against Lawrence alleging acts of disobedience and insubordination on December 28 and 29, 1969 and that these charges were being processed under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ); therefore, the allegation that current UCMJ charges pending against Lawrence stem from Lawrence's January 3 broadcast is untrue.

**COMMANDERS DIGEST**

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## U. S. Involvement in the 70s

# Continuity And Change In Foreign Policy

*U. S. foreign policy during the first year of this Administration was recently described by Secretary of State William P. Rogers as "a mix of continuity and change."*

*Speaking at the annual Foreign Policy Conference for Editors and Broadcasters, Mr. Rogers also analyzed the direction of U.S. policy in the decade of the 70s. Following are excerpts from his address of Jan. 15.*

SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS

In this first year the Nixon Administration has put its own stamp on United States foreign policy. It is a mix of continuity and change.

### Continuity and Change

There is a necessity for continuity in our foreign policy which derives from the fact that we are the world's greatest power. Nothing can relieve us of the inescapable responsibilities that go with that status. Certainly one of the most stabilizing influences in world affairs today is that other nations, friendly and not so friendly, take it for granted that the United States will live up to its obligations. Without the element of continuity in basic U.S. foreign policy, world affairs would be much more unstable and dangerous.

Yet there must be change, too, because world events require a dynamic foreign policy. When this Administration took office our participation in the war in Vietnam had come to pervade and color the whole of our foreign policy. The alternatives seemed to be either to negotiate a settlement or to go on fighting indefinitely. It was clear that we needed another approach.

President Nixon decided that our policy should be to negotiate a settlement *or*, if that were not possible, to transfer the responsibility for combat activities to the South Vietnamese in a way which would assist them to achieve self-determination.

***'To have better relations with the USSR and with Communist China, we believe, would be in our national interest.'***

As you know that has come to be known as Vietnamization and we are cautiously optimistic about its success.

If U.S. foreign policy a year ago was overly concentrated on Vietnam, the foreign policy of the USSR was equally preoccupied with the quarrel with Communist China. As far as we can see this is still the case and there is no reason to believe that it is likely to change dramatically in the near future.

To have better relations with the Soviet Union and with Communist China, we believe, would be in our national interest and our policy is to seek sensible ways to accomplish this. The fact that a Sino-Soviet conflict exists is strictly their affair, but it should not be a restraint on our efforts to improve relations with both.

### Japan and Germany

I think I should mention two other powerful nations in the world which are making new contributions to the dynamics of world affairs.

The first is Japan. Japan has become the third industrial power of the world. She is ready to play a part in the affairs of the Asian and Pacific community of nations more commensurate with that status.

In recognition of this fact our Administration decided to return Okinawa to Japan in 1972. This historic decision should be looked upon as the closing act of the post-war period of U.S.-Japanese relations. Our relations with Japan now enter a new stage of close and friendly cooperation at the beginning of a new decade.

The fourth most productive economy in the world is the

Federal Republic of Germany. There is a new government in Bonn with which we have excellent relations both bilaterally and within NATO.

If East-West relations are to return to a more normal state, Germany obviously must play a major role in that process. The present German government is engaged in an effort to do this in consultation with and with the support of its allies, including, of course, the United States.

***'The U.S. has no intention of renouncing its treaty obligations, of withdrawing from the international scene.'***

### U.S. Policy in The 70s

These brief remarks serve to highlight the fact that in this next decade glacial changes will undoubtedly occur. The Nixon Administration's general approach to foreign policy as we enter the decade of the 70s is:

¶ *First*, to try to move from stalemated confrontations to active negotiations on outstanding issues with the Soviet Union and others.

¶ *Second*, to encourage other more developed nations, and especially in the framework of regional organizations, to assume greater responsibility for leadership and initiative in the affairs of the major regions of the world;

¶ *Third*, to lower our voice and our visibility on the world stage to accord with what we intend to be a more moderate dialogue and a greater degree of partnership with our friends and allies; and

¶ *Fourth*, to make it clear that the United States has no intention of renouncing its treaty obligations, of withdrawing from the international scene or of failing to play a proper and active role in the constant search for security and for a better life for all of mankind.

On the negotiating front, we have successfully launched the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks; we have agreed with the Soviet Union on a draft treaty banning the emplacement of weapons of mass destruction on the ocean floors; we are seeking to discuss arrangements to normalize access to Berlin; we have negotiated intensively, but with disappointing results so far, to find a framework on which the parties may negotiate a lasting settlement in the Middle East, and we have indicated a willingness to negotiate with the Warsaw Pact nations on mutual and balanced reduction of forces in Europe.

We shall make some proposals . . . to the Communist Chinese in Warsaw in the hope that we can improve relations with them.

On the second point—encouraging greater responsibility for regional leadership by the nations of the area—we have moved forward in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

In Asia, our friends and allies have agreed that henceforth, if it should be required, they will provide the necessary military forces to cope with subversion—both internally and externally-promoted—with the U.S. providing appropriate support by way of equipment and training, etc. We have agreed, too, that the proper role of the U.S. is that of partner and participant in regional activities, for which Pacific and Asian countries will undertake initiatives and provide leadership. This is the way we want it and the way the Asians want it.

In Latin America a comparable development has taken place. In accord with our neighbors to the south, we are proceeding on the basis of a more mature and a more equal partnership. Our Hemisphere friends have accepted responsibility for providing a leading voice in inter-American affairs and in setting their own course in the struggle for economic development and social reform.

***'We propose . . . to alter the character of our involvement — to make that involvement more consistent with present day realities —to give it a sound footing for the long term. We can be less intrusive and less domineering. We can have a lower profile. We can speak with a less strident voice.'***

I have not mentioned Africa but next month [February] I shall visit Africa. I will in particular discuss with African leaders their views of how best to find a steady, long-term basis for relating our interest in helping them raise standards of living to their own efforts.

Overall I believe that the United States . . . has had a successful year in the conduct of its foreign affairs.

### Not Isolationist

Finally, I want to underscore that the foreign policy of this Administration cannot be characterized as tending toward isolationism—as a curtailment of interests or a shedding of responsibility in world affairs. We cannot retreat from a world in which we will increasingly be involved—however longingly some might glance in that direction.

What we *can* do and what we propose to do is to alter the character of our involvement—to make that involvement more consistent with present day realities—to give it a sound footing for the long term. We can be less intrusive and less domineering. We can have a lower profile. We can speak with a less strident voice.

By working more effectively with other nations—by conducting our international affairs with a bit more modesty—we hope that we may become more successful and effective partners in the search for peace and security in the world during this last third of the 20th century.

# President, SecDef Send Special Prayers to Military

President Nixon and Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird recorded messages for members of the Armed Forces around the world who heard them during the 18th Annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., Feb. 5.

The breakfast was attended by members of Congress, the Cabinet and other distinguished guests.

Purpose of the breakfast is to bring together the leadership of the U.S. in recognition of the moral and spiritual values upon which the nation was founded.

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*Message from President Nixon to all Armed Forces Personnel*
*On Occasion of the Annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast*

On the occasion of the Annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast, I am pleased to extend my personal greetings to the men and women of the Armed Forces. Your simultaneous participation in similar events at military installations and ships throughout the Free World is indicative of a renewal of the Spirit in America.

On 20 January 1969 I made this statement in my inaugural address, "We have found ourselves rich in goods, but ragged in spirit; reaching with magnificent precision for the moon, but falling into raucous discord here on Earth. We are caught in war, wanting peace. We are torn by division, wanting unity. We see around us empty lives, wanting fulfillment. We see tasks that need doing, waiting for hands to do them. To a crisis of the spirit, we need an answer of the spirit." The response of the Armed Forces to my challenge is most heartening. I welcome your participation with that of leaders of the Nation in reaffirming the moral and spiritual values inherent in our American way of life.

Historically, the leadership of our Nation has always turned to Almighty God for strength and guidance. The Mayflower Compact was signed "In the Name of God, Amen." The Declaration of Independence was concluded with the words, "With a Firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence." We remember General Washington kneeling in prayer in the snow at Valley Forge. We are reminded that every single daily session of Congress ever convened under the Constitution of the United States has been opened with prayer.

In this spirit the Presidential Prayer Breakfast was inaugurated by the United States Senate and House of Representatives Breakfast Groups to specifically seek Divine guidance and strength as well as reaffirm our faith and the dedication of our Nation and ourselves to God, His plan and purpose.

Therefore, on this very special occasion I ask you to join me in prayers of thanksgiving to Almighty God for blessings past and petitions for His continued providence.

Let us pray for an America which stands tall in the world, not by virtue of its military might, nor its material achievements, but because our Country is the incarnation of human liberty, of the rights and dignity of man, of justice and honor, and of faith in the wisdom and power of Almighty God.

Let us pray for an America whose torch of freedom will so shine that it will continue to illumine the pathway for millions of enslaved peoples who seek to rise above the valley of tyranny and adversity and reach the peak of man's loftiest ambition—freedom.

Let us pray for an America so constant to its ideals and principles, so resolute in honoring its commitments, and so true to its responsibility for Free World leadership that our friends will never have reason to regret the trust they place in us.

Let us pray for an America whose greatness does not lie in its high standards of living but rather its high standard of life. Remembering generations of Americans who counted their worth not in terms of what they *had* but in terms of what they *were*, concerned with the spiritual values they would pass on to posterity.

Let us pray that America will develop an invincible spirit which will not falter in the face of threats but will increasingly develop a national capacity for moral indignation and compassion which will inspire us to challenge evil, injustice and corruption wherever it appears.

Let us pray for an America which will call forth in each of us the determination to measure up to the high bench marks of character, courage and dedication which were the trade marks of our founding fathers. For in the final analysis not only the very life of our Nation and the perpetuation of our free institutions, but also the liberty of all mankind depends upon what we, individually and corporately do or fail to do each day, every day.

And lastly, let us earnestly pray the words of one of America's great hymns:

"Our Father's God, to Thee, Author of Liberty, to Thee we sing;

"Long may our land be bright with Freedom's holy light;

"Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King."

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Following is Secretary Laird's message:

*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

*—John XV; 4-5*

Twenty centuries have passed since these words were spoken by Him who was called the Prince of Peace.

Within that span of history, man has achieved truly remarkable things. He has made deserts bloom; he has made the oceans and the air waves his highways; he has harnessed the forces of nature; he has made tremendous attacks against his traditional enemies—hunger and disease and poverty; and in our day, he has stepped on the surface of the moon.

These and countless other accomplishments are sources of justifiable pride to man. The knowledge expansion of the last half century, the awesome implications of nuclear power, the dizzying speed of technological progress—all these give eloquent witness to the potentiality of man. His forward progress

seems limitless. His total mastery of the forces of nature appear inevitable.

And yet, despite his phenomenal material progress, 20th century man feels in the depths of his being a disturbing sense of disquietude.

And he asks why? He looks about him and sees man's inhumanity to man; he sees wars and rumors of wars; he sees violence erupt where order should exist; and he somehow feels that the quality of human life is deteriorating.

And he asks himself, why?

". . . without me ye can do nothing."

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it."

When man forgets his ultimate dependence on his Creator, he violates his nature. And violated nature can produce neither the good life nor the good society. When man perceives himself in the place of God and relegates God as some have done to the tomb, then man is in serious danger indeed.

Abraham Lincoln in 1861 said it in words simple, direct, and eloquent:

"It is the duty of nations, of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God . . .

"We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has grown—but we have forgotten God.

"We have forgotten the gracious hand that preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us.

"We have vainly imagined that all these blessings were produced by some superior virtue and wisdom of our own."

It has been said that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord—not the abject fear of the slave for his master but the wholesome respect of the child for his father. It is only in the complete acknowledgment of our dependence upon His divine mercy that we as individuals or as a nation can look forward to true progress toward the good society.

We who are here are acting in the spirit of Lincoln's admonition. We who represent a score and more of different creeds and practice many different modes of worship are one in our purpose here this morning. We are here to admit our reliance upon God and to implore from Him those gifts that will enable us to go about His work on earth.

We cling firmly to the principle that state and church should be separate. We do not believe, however, that God and man or that God and the state should be split asunder. We do not believe, to borrow Lincoln's words, that men or nations should forget God.

"Without me ye can do nothing." When there is so much to be done, we cannot ignore the Divine power that alone will enable us to remove the scars that afflict out nation and the world.

And so, humbly, we ask our Heavenly Father for guidance and blessing. Above all, we ask Him to lead us along the way to peace and love among all His children.

# Defense Expands Early Release Policy to Include Vocational Schools

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) Roger T. Kelley has expanded Department of Defense policy on the early release of enlisted personnel to attend college to include eligible enlisted personnel who desire to attend recognized vocational/technical schools.

Since 1959, the Department of Defense has followed a policy permitting release of enlisted personnel up to three months before their normal separation date to attend accredited colleges and universities which award baccalaureate or higher degrees. In 1968, this policy was expanded to include institutions which award an associate degree or higher.

As revised, Department of Defense Instruction 1332.15, "Early Release of Military Enlisted Personnel for College or Vocational/Technical School Enrollment," issued January 26, 1970, now additionally provides that eligible enlisted personnel may be released up to three months prior to their normal separation date to enter a recognized vocational/technical school, i.e., one which is approved by the cognizant State Board for Vocational Education, or is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association listed by the U.S. Commissioner of Education.

Eligibility criteria are generally the same as formerly used in releasing personnel to attend college. To qualify for early release, a serviceman (1) must show that he has been accepted for enrollment commencing with a specific school term in a full-time resident course of instruction of no less than three months duration at a recognized vocational/technical school, (2) must not be essential to the mission of his assigned organization, and (3) must have completed 21 months of active duty on his current term of obligated service if he will have a reserve obligation after separation.

**CARRIER MEETING—Vice Admiral Henry A. Porter, Royal Canadian Navy (left), takes a first-hand look at the U.S. aircraft carrier Bon Homme Richard during a tour of U.S. naval air facilities. Explaining the carrier is Captain D. W. Alderton, commanding officer of the Bon Homme Richard.**

"The expansion of the Department of Defense early release policy to include eligible enlisted personnel in obtaining specific skills is an effort to improve opportunities for immediate civilian employment and thereby give veterans the assistance they need to make a smooth transition to civilian life."

Secretary Kelley then explained, "This early release policy particularly helps those eligible enlisted members who would be unduly penalized in the pursuit of their education if required to remain in service until expiration of their term of enlistment or induction."

## Combat Role to Double

# Secretary Seamans Evaluates Progress of South Vietnamese Air Force

The combat role of the South Vietnamese Air Force is expected to double by 1972 in line with President Nixon's plan for Vietnamization, Secretary Robert C. Seamans Jr. told a Pentagon news conference Jan. 28.

The Secretary of the Air Force said the South Vietnamese now have about 20 squadrons which fly 25 per cent of the fixed-wing sorties in the battle zone.

"We are now in the process of helping

Secretary Seamans

the VNAF double the size of their operation. This is a program which will run for another year and three-quarters or so," the Secretary added.

Secretary Seamans emphasized that increasing the Vietnamese air role in the war is not simply a matter of more planes and people. "The thing that I found (during an earlier visit) is the matter of training. One of the fundamental questions has been the extent to which the VNAF had to learn English in order to do the job.

"We have (since) changed our program so that we would not have to have as many of the VNAF learning English before they could get on with the training. We have also moved certain of the technical training from (the U.S.) back to Vietnam. This eases transportation and makes it much easier on the men themselves and it has eased the language requirement.

"The training is now centered at Nha Trang. I spent a good bit of time going through the classrooms—which have been modernized. You find in the order of 20 South Vietnamese with a U.S. corporal or sergeant who is really doing an impressive job. They have modern training aids—with tapes and so on—and we feel that this program is now in reasonably good shape.

"My overall impression of the progress being made by the Vietnamese is that it is certainly in the category of satisfactory. However, I don't want to appear to be overly optimistic—we have got to realize that they face a tremendous job. We must not expect too much. We must realize there may be setbacks."

Secretary Seamans said he was particularly pleased with the Vietnamese instructors who handle the technical classroom training and with the progress of the radar command control center at Ben Thue. He said the South Vietnamese will be operating the combat center "entirely on their own by this summer."

Following are additional excerpts from the press conference:

**Q. You mentioned that Vietnamese pilots usually have several thousand missions under their belt . . . Why aren't we giving them anything better than the A-37s that they're getting now?**

A. This is a point I got into with Vice President Ky. He pointed out that they like the A-1 and the A-37. Looking ahead, we are still wrestling with the question of their air defense and what requirements they must be able to meet. They do have a squadron of F-5s. The question is still unresolved as to what kind of fighter they will need for the long haul.

**Q. What is their aircraft availability rate and how does that compare to U.S. squadrons with the same equipment?**

A. Their operational readiness is comparable to our own Air Force.

# Reserve Forces Terminology Clarified

Improper reference to reserve forces terminology has prompted Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) Roger T. Kelley to issue a memorandum of clarification.

He said, "It has come to my attention recently that the National Guard components of our reserve forces often are not adequately or properly identified."

Secretary Kelley explained, "Although the National Guard component (both Army and Air Force) are 'reserve' components and forces in the general sense, these terms are sometimes misunderstood by, or confusing to, the layman. The use of the term 'reserve' is often misinterpreted to exclude the National Guard when such is not the case. And more important, the exclusive use of the term, 'reserve', when the inclusion of National Guard units is intended does not adequately identify the subject matter."

He added, "In an effort to correct this situation, it is requested that specific terminology be used, as appropriate . . . when referring to both Reserve and National Guard forces." He listed the following examples as proper reference:

National Guard and Reserve forces/components/units

National Guardsmen and Reservists

Army National Guard and Army Reserve forces/components/units

Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve forces/components/units

The memorandum is dated January 27.

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